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## TALKING STUDENT DEBT

"Paid Off" host Michael Tarpey chats with Metro. 19

VSiN metro BET 2 New, chic sportsbooks opening in AC. 24

# UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Philip Morris pulled a social media campaign after a report uncovered young "influencers" pitching its new IQOS device. 4-5

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| Rain | Chance showers | Mostly sunny | Chance showers | Mostly sunny |

# Iran commander calls US military in Gulf a target not a threat: ISNA

U.S. forces have been sent to the Middle East to counter "clear indications" of threats.

REUTERS

A senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander said on Sunday the U.S. military presence in the Gulf used to be a serious threat but now represented a target, the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) reported.

The U.S. military has sent forces, including an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers, to the Middle East in a move U.S. officials said was to counter "clear indications" of threats from Iran to its forces in the region.

The U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln is replacing another carrier rotated out of the Gulf last month.

"An aircraft carrier that has at least 40 to 50 planes on it and 6,000 forces gathered within it was a serious threat for us in the past but now it is a target and the threats have switched to opportunities," said Amirali Hajizadeh, head of the Guards' aerospace division. "If [the Americans] make a move, we will hit them in the head," he added, according to ISNA.

Iranian navy commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi said on Sunday that American forces must exit, according to ISNA. "The presence of the Americans in the Persian Gulf region has reached its end and they must leave the region," Khanzadi said.

Major General Hossein Salami, appointed head of the Guards last month, told parliament on Sunday the United States had started a psychological war in the region, the parliamentary spokesman said.

"Commander Salami, with attention to the situation in the region, presented an analysis that the Americans have started a psychological war because the comings and goings of their military is a normal matter," spokesman Behrouz Nemati said, according to parliament's ICANA news site.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet on Sunday that John Bolton had planned the U.S. withdrawal from a 2015 nuclear deal and a more aggressive approach even before the U.S. national security adviser took up his post.

Zarif tweeted a link to a 2017 National Review article by Bolton headlined "How to Get Out of the Iran Nuclear Deal."

"A detailed blueprint for #FakeIntelligence, #ForeverWar and even empty offers for talks-only phone numbers were not included," Zarif wrote.

CNN reported on Friday that the White House had passed a telephone number to the Swiss for contacting U.S. President Donald Trump in case Iranian officials wanted to hold talks.

The Swiss embassy in Tehran represents U.S. interests in the Islamic Republic. REUTERS

> **"An aircraft carrier that has at least 40 to 50 planes on it and 6,000 forces gathered within it was a serious threat for us in the past but now it is a target and the threats have switched to opportunities."**
>
> Amirali Hajizadeh, head of the Revolutionary Guards' aerospace division

## Pilot lands plane on nose after landing gear failure

**2** A Myanmar pilot safely landed a passenger jet without its front wheels on Sunday, after landing gear on the Myanmar National Airlines plane failed to deploy, the airline and an official said. It was the second aviation incident in Myanmar this week, after a Biman Bangladesh Airlines plane skidded off the runway during strong wind in Yangon on Wednesday, injuring at least 17 of those onboard. An official praised the pilot for bringing the Embraer 190 aircraft in to land at Mandalay airport on Sunday morning despite the technical failure. No one was hurt. Myanmar National Airlines, the state-run carrier, said in a statement the aircraft had departed from the city of Yangon and was approaching the airport serving the central city of Mandalay when the pilot was unable to extend the front landing gear. REUTERS

## Conn. man faces 140 years in prison for Trump threat

**3** A Connecticut man has been indicted after prosecutors say he threatened to kill President Donald Trump and sent others bomb threats and mail containing suspicious white powder, according to court documents. Gary Gravelle, 51, was indicted on 16 counts, including that he threatened the president in September 2018 by sending an envelope containing white powder and the handwritten message "You Die." He sent similar envelopes to a synagogue, a mosque and a chapter of the NAACP, according to the indictment. The note claimed the powder was a biotoxin but it was found to be harmless, officials said. Gravelle also sent emails and made phone calls threatening to detonate bombs in Vermont, Washington and at various locations in Connecticut, including government buildings and a mental health facility. REUTERS

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# Philip Morris suspends social media campaign after Reuters exposes young 'influencers'

Several product models looked to be under the age of 25.

Cigarette maker Philip Morris International Inc. has suspended a global social media marketing campaign in response to Reuters inquiries into the company's use of young online personalities to sell its new IQOS "heated tobacco" device, including a 21-year-old woman in Russia.

The company's internal "marketing standards" prohibit it from promoting tobacco products with youth-oriented celebrities or "models who are or appear to be under the age of 25."

The company told Reuters of the decision late Friday, saying it had launched an internal investigation into marketing posts and photographs that Reuters sent to the company for comment last week.

They included a paid post plugging the tobacco product by social media "influencer" Alina Tapilina in Moscow — who listed her age as 21 on Instagram — alongside often seductive photos of herself drinking wine, swimming and posing with little clothing in luxurious settings.

"We have taken the decision to suspend all of our product-related digital influencer actions globally," the company told Reuters. "Whilst the influencer in question is a legal-age adult smoker, she is under 25 and our guidance called for influencers to be 25-plus years of age. This was a clear breach of that guidance.

"No laws were broken," the company told Reuters. "However, we set high standards for ourselves and these facts do not excuse our failure to meet those standards in this instance."

The company added: "We were deeply disappointed to discover this breach and are grateful that it was brought to our attention."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last month decided it would allow sales of the IQOS device in the United States after a two-year review process in which Philip Morris repeatedly assured the regulator that it would warn young people away from the product.

The FDA declined to comment Friday evening on Philip Morris's decision to suspend the marketing campaign. The agency earlier said it would "keep a close watch on ... how the company is marketing its products."

While most of the social media influencers hired by Philip Morris overseas did not list their ages on Instagram, a Reuters review of the firm's social media marketing of IQOS in Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Russia and Romania shows that Tapilina's online persona was typical of what the company called its social media "ambassadors" for the device — rail-thin young women who revel in the high life.

REUTERS

The company did not directly respond to additional questions Friday night regarding the intended audience for its digital influencer campaigns.

Many of the messages contained the hashtag "#IQOSambassador," tying them into a network of social media influencers that the international tobacco giant has relied on to brand the IQOS as a safer alternative to cigarettes and a sexy fashion accessory.

> **"We were deeply disappointed to discover this breach and are grateful that it was brought to our attention."**
>
> Cigarette maker Philip Morris, to Reuters

"I finally have the new IQOS 3, and I can confidently say yes to change … the level of harmful substances is on average about 90 percent lower than in smoke," Tapilina wrote in an April post. "You haven't yet switched to IQOS?"

One Romanian IQOS marketer is 25 years old, according to a separate actress biography, but did not list her age on Instagram. Tapilina and nine other IQOS marketers did not respond to requests for comment.

Philip Morris, in its statement to Reuters, said its suspension of the social marketing campaign is "concrete proof" of its "conviction to achieve a smoke-free world through socially responsible practices."

Matthew Myers, president of The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, had a different take upon hearing of the suspension Friday night. The advocacy group collected some of the IQOS marketing images reviewed by Reuters.

Philip Morris, he said, "is changing their behavior only when caught red-handed."

The company, Myers said, has historically been "the single most successful across the globe in making cigarettes fashionable to young people."

Over the past year, Philip Morris has increasingly publicized its "mission" to prevent young people from using tobacco products. Last month, it issued a release calling on "all tobacco and e-cigarette companies to do their part to guard against youth nicotine use."

"Let me be clear: We at Philip Morris International do not, and will not, market or sell our products to youth," CEO André Calantzopoulos said during a speech in Boston earlier this month. "For Philip Morris International, age matters." REUTERS


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# 70 Weapons seized from Philly home

The guns were confiscated during a Protection From Abuse order.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Seventy firearms were recently seized from a Philadelphia home when officials from the Sheriff's Office served a Protection From Abuse (PFA) order.

On Friday, Sheriff Jewell Williams showed off the massive haul.

"We are a 24/7 operation," Williams said. "We protect the community by taking these weapons off the street."

Although the weapons were seized from just one person, a spokesman said the guns represent only a fraction of what the Sheriff's Office is responsible for confiscating.

Women Against Abuse Police Liaison Mike Gallagher joined Williams on Friday as officials unveiled the weapons.

"I want to thank the sheriff and the Sheriff's Office for being great allies in getting guns off the street from dangerous offenders in Philadelphia," Gallagher said.

Act. 79, Pennsylvania House Bill 2060, recently went into effect, changing the rules governing the surrender of firearms and other weapons by people served with PFA orders. Officials say more weapons will now be surrendered to law enforcement, and the Philadelphia Sheriff's Office is the primary custodian of weapons surrendered or seized.

Inventoried weapons are secured by the Sheriff's Office and may be returned to the owner following a court order authorizing the individual to retrieve their firearms, according to a spokesman.

## BRIEF

**Poland's Kaczynski promises harsher sentences for child abuse**

The leader of Poland's conservative ruling party promised harsher sentences for child abuse on Sunday, as the release of a documentary about pedophile priests created a fresh battleground in an election campaign marked by debate on religion and sexuality.

The film "Just Don't Tell Anyone," which features victims confronting their abusers, has reignited criticism of the Catholic Church's handling of such cases and had over 3 million views within 22 hours of being posted on YouTube.

"We prepared changes to the penal code, meaning this crime [child abuse] will be punished very severely ... There will be no suspended sentences. There will be severe penalties, maybe even up to 30 years in prison," said the nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party's head Jaroslaw Kaczynski at a rally.

Currently, sexual abuse of a child under 15 is punishable by up to 12 years in prison.

Kaczynski's words came amid tensions between liberals who feel the Church wields too much power in Poland and conservatives who see the Catholic faith as a key element of national identity whose influence must be protected.

On Monday, a woman was detained by police for posting images near a church of the Virgin Mary with her halo painted to resemble the rainbow flag of the LGBT community.

PiS, which leads most opinion polls, has made protecting traditional values a key plank of its bid to win European elections on May 26 and parliamentary elections in the autumn.

"Does this [stance against child abuse] mean that the crimes ... of a small number of priests give the right to attack the Church, to offend Catholics? No, that is no justification," added Kaczynski in the northern city of Szczecin.

The film, by brothers Tomasz and Marek Sekielski, shows elderly priests including Franciszek Cybula, who was the chaplain of former President Lech Walesa, being confronted by people they abused as children. It presents allegations that known pedophiles were shifted between parishes. REUTERS

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U.S. President Trump speaks at NRA-ILA Leadership Forum in Indianapolis, Indiana. REUTERS

# Trump may provoke lawmakers to impeach him: Senior Democrat

Republicans have accused Dems of grandstanding for votes.

Democrats are reluctant to impeach President Donald Trump, but he may provoke such a move by continuing to obstruct Congress' efforts to oversee his administration, a senior Democratic lawmaker said on Sunday.

Adam Schiff, chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, told ABC's "This Week" that impeachment by the Democratic-run House would be politically divisive and unlikely to succeed in the Republican-run Senate.

"But he [Trump] may get us there," Schiff said. "He certainly seems to be trying and maybe this is his perverse way of dividing us more. ... He thinks that's to his political advantage, but it's certainly not to the country's advantage."

Trump's stonewalling of congressional probes of his administration does add weight to impeachment, Schiff told ABC. "But you know, part of our reluctance is we are already a bitterly divided country and an impeachment process will divide us further."

Democrats have confronted the Republican president and his administration for refusing to cooperate with at least six separate congressional investigations of Trump, his turbulent presidency, his family and his business interests.

A Democratic-led House committee on Wednesday approved a measure to hold Attorney General William Barr in contempt for refusing to hand over an unredacted copy of the Mueller report on Russian election interference even as Trump invoked the legal principle of executive privilege to block its disclosure.

Democrats are divided over how far to take their investigations, with some calling for impeachment proceedings and others backing continued investigations.

Republicans have accused Democrats of grandstanding for liberal voters. Some of Trump's allies believe any impeachment effort could prove unpopular and help him as he seeks re-election in 2020.

> **"He certainly seems to be trying and maybe this is his perverse way of dividing us more. ... He thinks that's to his political advantage, but it's certainly not to the country's advantage."**
>
> **Adam Schiff, chairman of the House of Representatives**

But even the Republican-controlled Senate Intelligence Committee has subpoenaed the president's son, Donald Trump Jr.

Schiff reiterated his suggestion Sunday that Congress could levy fines of $25,000 a day on administration officials who refuse to cooperate with demands for witness appearances and documents in congressional investigations.

"Look, I think if you fine someone $25,000 a day to their person until they comply, it gets their attention. ... I don't know how many are going to want to take that risk for Donald Trump," Schiff said. REUTERS

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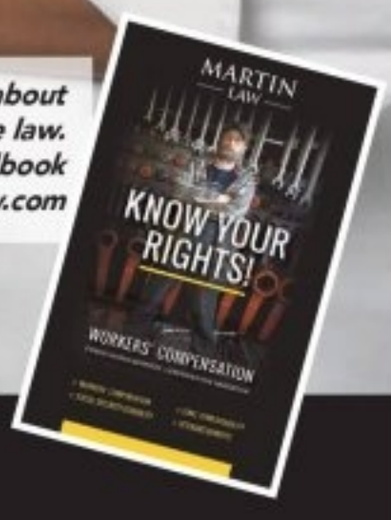


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# US and China at impasse over trade, Kudlow says new tariffs will remain

President Trump said Beijing "broke the deal" by reneging on commitments.

The United States and China appeared at a deadlock over trade negotiations on Sunday as Washington demanded promises of concrete changes to Chinese law and Beijing said it would not swallow any "bitter fruit" that harmed its interests.

The trade war between the world's top two economies escalated on Friday, with the United States hiking tariffs on $200 billion worth of Chinese goods after President Donald Trump said Beijing "broke the deal" by reneging on earlier commitments made during months of negotiations.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told Fox News on Sunday that the United States needs to see China agree to "very strong" enforcement provisions for an eventual deal and said the sticking point was Beijing's reluctance to put agreed changes into law.

He vowed the tariffs would remain in place while negotiations continue.

Beijing remained defiant, however. "At no time will China forfeit the country's respect, and no one should expect China to swallow bitter fruit that harms its core interests," said a commentary, due for Monday publication, in the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily.

It said Beijing's doors were open to talks but it would not yield on important issues of principle.

Kudlow said there was a "strong possibility" that Trump will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping at a G20 summit in Japan in late June. Until last week, there were expectations Trump and Xi would sign a trade deal at the summit.

However, the trade talks suffered a major setback last week when China proposed extensive revisions to a draft agreement. It wanted to delete prior commitments that Chinese laws would be changed to enact new policies on issues from intellectual property protection to forced technology transfers.

Vice Premier Liu He sought to defend the changes in talks with senior U.S. officials in Washington on Thursday and Friday, arguing that China could accomplish the policy changes through decrees issued by its State Council, or cabinet, sources familiar with the talks said.

But U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer rejected that, telling Liu that the United States was insisting on restoration of the previous text.

"We would like to see these corrections in an agreement which is codified by law in China, not just a State Council announcement. We need to see something much clearer. And until we do, we have to keep our tariffs on," Kudlow said.

China strongly opposes the latest U.S. tariff hike, and has to respond to that, Liu told reporters on Saturday.

Kudlow said on Sunday he expected retaliatory tariffs to kick in but that it had not happened yet.

Trump has ordered Lighthizer to begin the process of imposing tariffs on all remaining imports from China, a move that would affect about an additional $300 billion worth of goods.

Lighthizer said a final decision on that had not yet been made but it would come on top of the Friday tariff rate increase to 25 percent from 10 percent on $200 billion worth of Chinese imports.

Trump has claimed that China is paying for the tariffs but it is importers — usually U.S. companies or the U.S.-registered units of foreign companies — that have to pay. And U.S. farmers, a key constituency of Trump, have been among the hardest hit in the trade war, with soybean shipments to China dropping to a 16-year low in 2018.

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# Presidential contender Harris favors look at breaking up Facebook

The senator stated that the social media giant has prioritized growth.

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris said on Sunday that U.S. officials should consider breaking up Facebook Inc., the world's largest social media company, saying it is a utility that has gone unregulated.

Harris, a U.S. senator and one of more than 20 Democrats seeking the party's nomination for the 2020 presidential election, said Facebook has prioritized growth over consumers' interests, especially on privacy.

"I think we have to seriously take a look at that [breaking up Facebook], yes," Harris said in an interview with CNN's Jake Tapper. She said very few people can get by in their communities, business or commerce without somehow using Facebook. "So we have to recognize it for what it is. It is essentially a utility that has gone unregulated."

Facebook has been under scrutiny from regulators around the world over data-sharing practices as well as hate speech and misinformation on its networks.

Some other U.S. lawmakers, including Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren, have pushed for action to break up big tech companies as well as federal privacy regulation.

Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes called last week for the social network to be split into three parts.

Facebook, which has more than 2 billion users on its social network, rejected Hughes' call. Spokesman Nick Clegg said Facebook accepted that with success comes accountability, "but you don't enforce accountability by calling for the breakup of a successful American company."

Early opinion polls show Harris in the top tier of Democrats who have announced presidential campaigns. She and several other Democratic candidates have spent large sums on Facebook ads.

Warren and another senator seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, Amy Klobuchar, have proposed plans to increase antitrust scrutiny of the technology sector, with Warren vowing to break up Facebook, Amazon and Alphabet Inc.'s Google if elected.

> **"We need a president that's going to enforce antitrust laws in this country, and I will be that person."**
>
> Sen. Cory Booker

But Sen. Cory Booker, another Democratic presidential candidate, said Sunday "we do not need a president that is going to use their own personal beliefs and tell you which companies we will break up.

"We need a president that's going to enforce antitrust laws in this country, and I will be that person," Booker told ABC's "This Week."

President Donald Trump, a Republican, has also suggested that Amazon and social media networks like Facebook need tougher regulation. REUTERS

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# Philly medical marijuana dispensary all about wellness, holistic health

WRITTEN BY
**Amy Smith**

As medical marijuana becomes legal in more and more states, dispensaries are becoming mainstays in communities across the United States. This includes the Philadelphia area, which is home to two locations of Herbology; one in South Philly and one in Delaware County. The dispensary is doing more than helping patients find the best medical marijuana to fit their needs—it's also bringing the community together and rallying local residents to take an active part in their overall well-being and health.

Something that's a little bit different about Herbology is the fact that they do a lot of community outreach, workshops and classes. Their South Philly location offers some wellness programs, like meditation courses, free chair massages on Saturdays, kombucha-making classes and more.

The idea is to encourage patients to do more than just take their medicine. Instead, it's about prioritizing other aspects of healthy living and holistic wellness. Herbology's vision is to integrate different aspects of physical and emotional well-being, bringing people together in the process and creating a sense of community and belonging.

Herbology's medical marijuana products are equally impressive. Locally grown without pesticides, all have been thoroughly tested for purity and potency. Patients know exactly what they're getting and precisely what compounds are in each product. Herbology, which is regulated by the Department of Health, also provides classes to educate patients on how different products work and how to use them safely and effectively. Products currently on the menu include cannabis flower, oils, topicals, capsules, tinctures and concentrates.

There is something for everyone who wants to try medical marijuana; it's just a matter of figuring out what's right for you and what's going to be most effective for your condition.

Medical marijuana is different than hemp products mainly because it contains THC. Herbology offers products that contain both THC and CBD. The significant difference between the two is that THC is known for producing a psychoactive effect that leads to a feeling of euphoria, and CBD does not. Still, both are very beneficial for a variety of medical conditions.

Either way, patients at Herbology can expect to be met by an extremely compassionate and knowledgeable staff.

They want to help every patient succeed in using cannabis as medicine, and will spend as much time as needed to with patients on a continual basis to make sure they're getting what they need and finding the right medicine for them.

So how does medical marijuana actually work? It all comes back to the body's endocannabinoid system, or the ECS; a naturally occurring biological system that is present in all mammals. This system is made up of receptors that are found all throughout your body and is responsible for helping to regulate the many systems and processes of the body.

If you're experiencing something irregular in your body, such as pain or anxiety, the ECS will actually recognize this and then produce chemical compounds called cannabinoids, which help in regulating your body and bringing it back into homeostasis.

Medical marijuana also contains cannabinoids, including THC and CBD, and many others as well. Essentially the idea of using marijuana as medicine is to use the cannabinoids produced by a plant to supplement the cannabinoids produced by your body. They all have the ability to interact with the receptors of the endocannabinoid system, which is what makes it an effective medicine for so many different conditions.

Think medical marijuana can help you or your family? Come to one of Herbology's new patient registration sessions. Drop in any time at one of the following sessions:

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# Cuban LGBT activists defy government, hold unprecedented indie pride parade

At least three people were arrested by plainclothes cops.

Cuban LGBT activists participate in an annual demonstration against homophobia and transphobia in Havana.

ALL REUTERS IMAGES

Cuban gay rights activists held an unauthorized independent pride parade in Havana on Saturday despite the Communist government warning against it and calling it subversive, an unprecedented show of civil society in the one-party state.

More than a hundred Cubans chanting "Long live a diverse Cuba" and carrying rainbow flags joyfully marched a little over a half-mile from Havana's Central Park down to the seafront boulevard before being stopped by dozens of security officials.

At least three activists were arrested by plainclothes policemen while others were ordered to disperse given the activity did not have an official permit.

"This moment marks a before and an after for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender [LGBT] community but also for Cuban civil society more generally," said independent journalist and LGBT activist Maykel Gonzalez Vivero.

"Social media is playing its role and civil society demonstrated it has strength, and can go out onto the streets if necessary, and from now on the government will have to take that into account."

This was the second march organized independently of state institutions — hitherto a rare occurrence in Cuba — in just over a month, although the previous one, in defense of animal rights, had received a permit from local authorities.

Activists called for their own parade after the state-run National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX) earlier this week abruptly canceled its 12th annual conga against homophobia — Cuba's equivalent of gay pride.

CENESEX, headed by Mariela Castro, the daughter of Communist Party leader Raul Castro, said in a statement that certain groups were planning to use the event to undermine the government, emboldened by the escalation of aggression by the Trump administration against Cuba and its leftist ally Venezuela.

The United States has for decades financed often covert programs to promote democracy on the island and undermine the Communist government.

But many LGBT activists said they felt the government was reacting more to pressure from evangelical churches, which have a growing following in Cuba and have campaigned against the expansion of gay rights.

CENESEX denounced the alternative parade as a "provocation" and several activists say they received threats either anonymously on social media or from state security in person not to attend it — not that it stopped them.

"This isn't a political march, this is a celebration to give the LGBT community visibility," said Myrna Rosa Padron Dickson.

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Activists promoted the march on social networks thanks to the ex-

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pansion of the internet in Cuba in recent years that has more broadly seen increasing numbers of Cubans mobilize online over certain issues, sometimes apparently managing to influence policy.

The government, for example, postponed the full implementation of a decree clamping down on the arts after an online campaign protesting the law, and stepped back on regulations governing the private sector after entrepreneurs and experts complained.

So far, however, the government has retained tight control over physical public spaces, mostly restricting marches to expressions of support for the government, like the recent Labor Day parade.

The conga in Havana was an exception that became a regular occurrence, and a reminder that the government, which once sent gays to work camps in the early days of Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, had made considerable advances in LGBT rights in recent years.

The country guarantees rights such as free sex-change operations and forbids discrimination on the basis of sexuality, in a region where some countries still have anti-sodomy laws.

**"This isn't a political march, this is a celebration to give the LGBT community visibility."**

**Myrna Rosa Padron Dickson**

Some LGBT activists say they felt the cancellation of the conga was a sign those rights are being eroded, possibly because a recent public consultation over a new constitution revealed that there was more opposition to the community than previously thought.

Many Cubans expressed their opposition to a change in the draft constitution that would have explicitly opened the door to gay marriage.

Evangelical churches also ran unprecedented campaigns against the change, which was eventually watered down.

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# ‘Avengers: Endgame’ stays No. 1, ‘Detective Pikachu’ debuts with solid $58 million

Disney and Marvel’s “Avengers: Endgame” remained victorious at the North American box office, collecting $65 million during its third weekend in theaters.

“Avengers: Endgame” officially passed “Avengers: Infinity War” ($679 million) and “Black Panther” ($700 million) to become the third-highest-grossing movie of all time at the domestic box office with $724 million in ticket sales. It’s still the second-biggest film ever globally with $2.48 billion, pacing behind just “Avatar” with $2.78 billion.

However, “Endgame”’s third straight box office success didn’t come without a little competition. Warner Bros. and Legendary’s “Detective Pikachu” gave “Earth’s Mightiest Heroes” a run for their money. The studio’s live-action Pokemon adaptation pulled in a solid $58 million when it launched in 4,202 venues.

“I’m giddy,” Warner Bros.’ head of domestic distribution Jeff Goldstein said on a call Sunday morning. “This is a big weekend for ‘Detective Pikachu.’”

Goldstein has reason for the good cheer. The impressive start for “Detective Pikachu” signals a rare win for video-game-to-big-screen adaptations. As a whole, it’s a genre that’s filled with few hits. “Super Mario Bros.” and “Doom” are two of the more high-profile misfires, but even recent titles like Alicia Vikander’s “Tomb Raider” remake and Dwayne Johnson’s “Rampage” were not popular among video game enthusiasts.

“It worked because of the lighthearted nature of the film,” Goldstein said. “You don’t need to be a Pokemon fan to see the movie.”

**$724M**

“Endgame” became the third-highest-grossing movie of all time at the domestic box office with $724 million in ticket sales.

But as competition from summer blockbuster season heats up, “Detective Pikachu” will need to rely on solid word of mouth to remain a draw among moviegoers. The studio is also expecting “Detective Pikachu” to resonate overseas, where the electric-yellow creature is a fan favorite. It’s certainly off to a good start, amassing $103 million from 62 international territories for a global weekend of $161 million. It had the biggest bow in China ($40 million), followed by the United Kingdom ($6.6 million).

REUTERS

Audiences seem high on Ryan Reynolds’ snarky take on the eponymous sleuthing Pokemon, awarding the film an “A-” CinemaScore. Critical reviews were mixed, averaging a 64 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. Directed by Rob Letterman, “Detective Pikachu” is based on the popular Pokemon series and the 2016 video game of the same name. Justice Smith stars alongside an adorable animated Pikachu (Reynolds) as the two team up to find out why the boy’s dad went missing.

Not all new releases were as fortunate. “Poms,” an uplifting comedy from STX and eOne, debuted with a paltry $5.1 million from 2,750 theaters. Diane Keaton stars in the film, about a group of seniors who form a cheerleading squad. The movie played to an older female audience, with women representing 75 percent of opening weekend crowds, while 85 percent were over the age of 25. Reviews were not kind. It carried a 29 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, as well as a “B+” CinemaScore.

It’s been a rough month for STX as its animated adventure “Uglydolls” failed to pick up steam in its second weekend of release. The $45 million movie generated $4 million for a dreadful domestic haul of $14.28 million.

Terrible reviews didn’t hold back all of this weekend’s newcomers. Rebel Wilson and Anne Hathaway’s “The Hustle” launched on the higher end of expectations with $13.5 million from 3,007 screens. The comedy, a female-led remake of “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” and “Bedtime Stories,” had a 16 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. Females accounted for 70 percent of moviegoers, with 69 percent under 35. REUTERS

# Guns N' Roses sue Colorado brewery over 'Guns 'N' Rosé' ale

Guns N' Roses are showing an appetite for litigation over a beer.

The rock band has sued the Colorado brewery Oskar Blues, accusing it of trademark infringement for selling an ale named "Guns 'N' Rosé" without permission.

In a complaint filed on Thursday in Los Angeles federal court, Guns N' Roses accused Oskar Blues of intentionally trading off its goodwill, prestige and fame by selling Guns 'N' Rosé since early 2018, and confusing beer drinkers into thinking the band was connected with the ale.

Guns N' Roses, whose general partners include singer Axl Rose, guitarist Slash and bassist Duff McKagan, also objected to sales of related goods including T-shirts, stickers, buttons and bandannas, "an item uniquely associated" with the band and

REUTERS

Rose.

The band is seeking triple damages and a halt to sales of infringing products.

Oskar Blues is part of the Canarchy Craft Brewery Collective. The brewery, its outside law firm and Canarchy did not immediately respond on Friday to requests for comment.

According to court papers, Guns N' Roses sued after Oskar Blues abandoned both its application to trademark "Guns N Rose" and any future use of that name or the band's name, but said it would keep selling Guns 'N' Rosé beer through March 2020.

Oskar Blues, based in Longmont, Colorado, has said Guns 'N' Rosé "bands together sticky prickly pear and floral hibiscus with a subtle hop profile."

There have been many lawsuits challenging beer names and labels in the United States, where the explosion of craft breweries can make it tough to find unique ways to sell beer.

According to the Brewers Association, there were 7,346 U.S. craft breweries in 2018, up 93 percent from 3,814 in 2014.

The case is Guns N' Roses v Canarchy Craft Brewery Collective LLC, U.S. District Court, Central District of California, No. 19-04052. REUTERS

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**Aries** Live and learn. Participate in activities and events that will help you become more aware of your health, attributes and long-term goals. Productivity and romance will enhance your life.

**Taurus** Ask questions and find out where you stand and who supports your ideas and plans. A heart-to-heart talk will motivate you to start your journey into the unknown.

**Gemini** Trying to change others is futile. If you want to make your life better, look inward and consider how to use your skills and resources to be the best you can be.

**Cancer** Stay focused on how to most effectively make a difference. Stay positive at all times. Your attitude and treatment of others will bring good results. Home improvements are favored.

**Leo** Don't let what others do or say get to you. Listen, assess your situation and do whatever is in your best interest. Physical improvements and romance are highlighted.

**Virgo** Just keep putting one foot in front of the other. The possibilities are endless, once you get started. Network with peers and express your thoughts and feelings to make things happen.

**Libra** Learn from your experience. If you face turmoil or a disgruntled or demanding individual, retreat and do something geared toward self-improvement and a healthier lifestyle.

**Scorpio** Reach out to people who share your beliefs and concerns. If you collaborate with someone, you'll come up with solutions to problems that have been slowing you down. A proposal should be looked at carefully.

**Sagittarius** Deal with partnerships head-on. If you are evasive or fail to ask direct questions, little will be accomplished. Physical activity will do you good. A romantic gesture will improve an important relationship.

**Capricorn** Keep your distance if someone tries to pry into your personal affairs. Concentrate on your assets and home environment, and keep things running smoothly. An unexpected change will turn out better than anticipated.

**Aquarius** Keep busy. Physical activity, helping others and personal improvements will be satisfying and will help you avoid getting stuck taking care of someone else's responsibilities.

**Pisces** Make plans and execute them strategically. Don't leave room for error or let anyone interfere. Walk away from excessive individuals or anyone who is emotionally manipulative. EUGENIA LAST

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# Michael Torpey talks another season of 'Paid Off' and the politics around student debt

The second season of "Paid Off With Michael Torpey" premieres tonight on TruTV.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

TruTV's "Paid Off," photographed on Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in Atlanta, Georgia. ALL PHOTOS JOHN NOWAK/TRUTV

When we caught up with Michael Torpey before the premiere of the first season of his show "Paid Off With Michael Torpey" on TruTV last year, the show seemed like it was an idea just crazy enough to work. Since then, the groundbreaking game show has helped numerous contestants decrease or completely eradicate their student debt, and struck a chord with an American audience desperate for a solution to the current crisis we are living through. After getting such a positive response, the show will be returning tonight to help even more people each night: In addition to helping contestants in the studio, Torpey will also be taking live calls from those in need around the country. We caught up with Michael Torpey ahead of the premiere about the new season and what he thinks politicians should be discussing ahead of the 2020 election.

**"Paid Off" is back for its second season. What do you attribute to the show's success?**

I think it is tapping into a cause that a lot of people believe in and are waking up to. The hope was that it would be presented in a way that didn't feel political — no, sorry, not political, not partisan. You know, traditionally it feels like it's been a cause of the left. But I really wanted to present human stories and say, look at these people who are doing their absolute best and they're just getting screwed over by our higher education system. And I think people were really able to get behind that and realize that there's something wrong, that we are penalizing people for just wanting an education. When we're holding people back from doing work that we look around our community and see that we need to have done, then there's something really wrong here. So it was great to have support from viewers, and also to have people reach out and say, you know, that they want to come on. It's crazy that this is someone's best course of action but unfortunately that's where we are right now.

**It seems like both student debt relief and free public college are issues that the majority of people can get behind — like the legalization of marijuana — but the government is slow to implement on a wide scale. What do you think is the best course of action for people to make change at the political level?**

Sure. Well, you brought up of the legalization of marijuana. I think that's a good parallel between the two, because of the student debt crisis and mass incarceration for drug charges. They're both results of poor government policy. When people say, hey, you've done this wrong for years, we just need you to fix it — I think that's completely appropriate. People want to paint it as this government giveaway that comes out of nowhere. That's wrong. The government has been involved in student debt for years. It's become a huge problem, and for them to fix it, it's not out of left field, it's completely appropriate.

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# 5 Fun things to do in Philly this week

Learn how to make Mummer-themed cocktails, see Aziz Ansari live and more.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Looking for some fun and unique things to do in Philly this week? We've got you covered. Here are five things to do in Philly this week.

The City Wide Flip from the Mummer Mixology class. QUAKER CITY MERCANTILE

### Beats 'N Eats

Join celebrity chef Robert Irvine for an immersive and unique food and music experience that supports a great cause. Beats 'N Eats benefits Irvine's foundation that increases opportunities for veterans and members of the military, and this incredible event features celebrity chefs, live music and plenty of delicious food. The mouthwatering dishes being served at dinner will be prepared by four-time James Beard Award-winning TV personality Andrew Zimmern; the Cake Boss himself, Buddy Valastro; renowned celebrity chef Cat Cora; culinary innovator Kevin Sbraga; one of Philadelphia's most prominent and ambitious businesswomen, Chef Marcie Turney; and Philly restaurateur and renowned Latin-American chef Jose Garces. The six-course family-style meal being served at Beats 'N Eats will have sets of music from well-known and emerging artists in between each course. Performers include local artist Lauren Hart; former member of The Roots, Rahzel; hosts of Bravo's "Beats 'n Bites" and Travel Channel's "Southern Road Trip" the Potash Twins; soul artist Zeek Burse; and DJ Eddie Tulley. VIP guests can partake in the VIP reception located in The Foundry before dinner, plus there will be an after-party presented by Patron spirits after the official event.

*May 13, 7 p.m., The Fillmore, 29 E. Allen St., $150+, beatsneats.co*

### Aziz Ansari

The "Parks and Recreation" star is coming to the City of Brotherly Love for one night only. Ansari will be hitting the stage at the new Met Philadelphia venue and will be performing his hilarious stand-up from his "Road to Nowhere" tour. Ansari began his career performing stand-up in New York City and got his start in television on MTV's "Human Giant" before hitting the big screen with movies such as "Funny People," "I Love You, Man" and more. Ansari also won two Emmys and a Golden Globe for his Netflix hit "Master of None." Tickets are on sale now and it is recommended to print yours out before the show on May 14. Cellphones are not permitted to be used throughout the show. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

*May 14, 8 p.m., Met Philadelphia, 858 N. Broad St., $50+, themetphilly.com*

### Craft Brews and "Organized Chaos"

Head to the Cambria Hotel this Monday to join in on a spirited lecture from Temple University history professor Jessica Choppin Roney. Roney will be discussing Philadelphia's history as a self-made city with her lecture series, "Colonial Philly's Organized Chaos." This deep dive into the city's progression will feature incredible facts and stories about the mafia and showcase how Philly became the city it is today while under mob rule. According to the release, the event is part of a new cross-country lecture program, in collaboration with the D.C.-based company Profs and Pints, that will take place throughout 2019 at select Cambria Hotels locations across the country. The event will also feature local and delicious craft beer selections curated by Cambria's very own

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**Love Your Park Week**
Love Your Park Week kicked off on May 11, but there are plenty of fun, educational and exciting events happening throughout the week as well. The nine-day event features plenty of volunteer opportunities and special events that celebrate Philly's parks. Philadelphians can sign up for service days at Aviator Park, Barkan Park, Benson Park, Clark Park, Fisher Park, Girard Park, Hart Park, Lemon Hill, Lotus Gardens, McMichael Park, Mifflin Square and many more on the official website. Special events include plogging (picking up litter and jogging) in FDR Park, a walk in the Woodlands, astronomy night at Rail Park, a night-time mountain bike ride, a storytelling campfire circle, a scavenger hunt, a plant sale and much, much more. Visit the official website for a full list of events and more information. *Through May 19, various times, various locations, prices vary, loveyourpark.org*

Aziz Ansari is hitting the stage in Philly this week. GETTY IMAGES

**Mummer Mixology Class**
Head to Philly's own one-of-a-kind tasting room, home bar supply, bottle shop and interactive classroom, Art in the Age, this Tuesday to partake in one of the most unique cocktail classes ever. The Mummer Mixology class will be led by Art in the Age's cocktail director, Lee Noble, who will be dressed the part. According to the release, Noble will be teaching participants how to make the wildest Philadelphia Mummers-inspired cocktail creations imaginable. The cocktails are inspired by the City of Brotherly Love and pay homage to Philly and the Mummers with crazy and over-the-top garnishes, such as a large pretzel, American Cheez Whiz and mini coconut cakes by Tastykake. The first cocktail, named the City Wide Flip, is made with Kinsey 4-year Bourbon Whiskey, while the second cocktail, deemed the 2 Street Irish Coffee, will feature Brothership Irish American Whiskey. There will be a limited amount of tickets for this event; you can RSVP and buy tickets on the official website. *May 14, 6-8 p.m., Art in the Age, 116 N. 3rd St., $40, artintheage.com*

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Store Space, wishing to avail themselves of the provisions under the Self-Service Storage Facility Act., hereby gives notice of the sale under said act to wit; Thursday the 23rd day of May, 2019 at 10:00 AM, on that day will conduct a public sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, FOR CASH ONLY, the contents of spaces at Store Space - Kensington, 3100 C Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134.
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At Storage Sense, 1000 S Easton Rd, Wyncote, PA 19095 (215-886-9185) will hold a public auction. The auction will take place on Storagetreasures.com. Items will be sold to the highest bidder for cash on May 13th - May 24th, 2019 at 12:30pm.
The following units contain household items, boxes and bins, furniture and/or personal goods, tables, mattress/box spring and many other items.
Mayee Gabriel - 2597, Chamaine Johnson - 1127, Tracy S. Dixon - 2342, Sonya Gaskins - 2360, Stefanie Greene - 2368, Isaac M. Williams - 2077, James Heath - 2314, Paul Langford - 2596, Tameya Lynette Hartwell - 1092, Rochelle D. Devenshire - 2285, Janice Esprit - 2224, Paul Langford - 2324, Sonya Gaskins - 2425, Denise Miller - 2094, Janice Esprit - 2221

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# The best of both worlds

Rati Gupta talks the last season of "Big Bang Theory" and "Future Man" season 2.

MOLLY GIVEN

Rati Gupta is having quite the year. The 35-year-old stepped into one of the most high-profile roles as Raj's fiancée in CBS's Golden Globe- and Emmy Award-winning series "The Big Bang Theory," and also took a crack at playing a fun-loving spouse in a polygamous marriage in Hulu's "Future Man," produced by Seth Rogan and Evan Goldberg. But the actress still shows no signs of slowing down. On the contrary, Gupta is fueled even more to find roles that push her limits, test her skills and ultimately shine on the screen. Gupta sat down with Metro to talk about the last season of "The Big Bang Theory" (the finale is May 16), discuss the wildness of "Future Man" and delve into why network TV and streaming services are so extremely different to work for.

**How did you first get involved with the show "Big Bang Theory"? Were you a fan before you got the role?**

I had seen the show. It's on television all the time, you can't really miss it. But I had actually read for a different role maybe five or six years ago, a different love interest for Raj. But that character I didn't really connect with as well, so that's partially why I didn't get it. But the casting directors were familiar with me, and I was familiar with the show, so they called me back in for this character. With this character, I read the description and read the script and I knew her, I understood her and I felt like I can do this, this is me. So I read for the producers a couple of times and then they gave me the job. I was really proud and excited. My mom has been a fan of the show since the beginning and so it was a big deal for her. She's excited for me when I get any type of acting role, but this one was just a big deal for my family as well.

**There is such a massive, loyal fan base with "The Big Bang Theory." Were you nervous taking on such a huge role on this wildly popular show?**

Yeah, it's probably the most high-profile, kind of high-stakes character that I've ever played as well. So to take on that big of a character on this big-deal show, I felt like I was getting thrown into the lion's den. Just like, here you go, good luck. But what made it easier for me was how welcoming the whole cast and crew was from the very beginning. I was struggling with that first episode. I was feeling my way around the character as were the producers and the writers. We are all trying to figure out how to make this work, and what she needs to be, all kind of struggling to make that work in the first episode. Kunal kept telling me, "You're doing great. Don't worry, you're great." To have him be that kind of emotional rock for me, constantly reassuring me, was so helpful and he was so great and such a great scene partner for me, and such a great friend for me throughout this entire season. So having him has kind of made the intensity of this job more manageable.

**Since you did end up having a great experience, do you wish that this wasn't the final season?**

I don't know if I would want the show to run longer, but I think I would have wanted Anu to show up earlier. I think the show is kind of in a good place. The characters are in good

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C359 - Holland, David; D425 - Clough, Roland; D452 - Shields, Douglas; D469 - Rodgers, Dwayne; G706 - Stohr, Eric; G760 - Golembiewski, Ramona; H862 - Norley, Samantha; L1056 - Reid, Christine; M1124 - Berry, Kim; M1149 - Russell, Aaron; O1506 - BRANCH, TAMEKA

**PUBLIC STORAGE # 24232, 2700 Grant Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19114, (215) 490-9431 • Time: 11:00 AM**

B0069 - Harper, Tamika; C0146 - Kendrick, William; C0149 - HARGROVE-MOORE, DANA; C0173 - Karingbaye, Patince; D0206 - Beale, Dorothy; E0261 - Evans, Samantha; E0316 - Garrett, Joseph; F0338 - Burgmann, Gus; H0532 - Pietras, Lisa; J0631 - Butler, Derek; J0741 - Walton, Shawnia; J0767 - Grosswald, Michael; L0995 - Appiah-Biney, George; M1080 - Pinard, Pierre; N1129 - Gambone Jr, Michael; N1172 - King III, John

**PUBLIC STORAGE # 21605, 3751 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA 19020, (215) 309-8353 • Time: 12:00 PM**

B017 - Clements, Thomas; B046 - Daley, Matthew; B162 - Medeiros, Joseph; B226 - Drinhouser, Thomas; B233 - Ford, Michelle; B237 - Knowles, Katie; B249 - Wheeler, Crystal; B325 - GALENSKI, ANTHONY; B351 - Keiter, Melissa; B354 - Bish, Brian; C004 - Benson, Cassara; C023 - Crompton Jr, John; C057 - Truelove, Zonda; C066 - Howlen, Glenda; C156 - Scott, Christine; C184 - Holovich, Terri; C204 - Garcia, Jonathan; C237 - Slezak, Lynn

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Gupta plays Anu on "The Big Bang Theory." GETTY

places where it's time for it to end. So if I were to go back in time, I would just wish Anu had shown up sooner. I love her and I love working on the show and playing her. I think she's a badass and I would have loved to have spent more time with her, for sure.

**I wanted to jump over to Hulu's "Future Man." Can you tell me a little more about your role in that show?**
I play Rake, one of five spouses of Wolf, who is played by Derick Wilson in the second season. The whole season takes place way in the future, in the year 2162, I think. It's this insane post-apocalyptic world where rights and civilization don't resemble anything that we know now. So the way that families work in the future in this world is that everyone is in polyamorous marriages and there are six parents per child. So I was one of these six parents with Wolf. Each one of us had our own character traits and job, and Rake was kind of just the fun one. She was there to keep everything fun and chill and carefree. So in a way, she's like the polar opposite of Anu, because Anu is practical and everything has to be efficient and she's kind of a hardass. Rake is just kind of, like, whatever. So it was a fun show, a very different show from "Big Bang Theory." I got to do and say a lot of things that I never thought I would do on television. It's a wild show in an extremely entertaining way and I had so much fun working on it. The cast was great and I loved my "spouses" in real life. We're all still a family off-camera.

**You mentioned with this role on "Future Man" you get to do wild things that you never imagined you would do on television. Do you think that's because this show is produced by a streaming company and not network television?**
For sure, network is beholden to advertisers in a way that streaming networks are not. They have to be more family-friendly. With streaming they can take so many more risks. That gives content creators that much more freedom to kind of be bold in their choices and go in directions that you can't do on network television. So it has been interesting experiencing both of those worlds on shows and seeing the differences and seeing what's possible in one or the other.

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# 2 New, chic sportsbooks opening in AC

"Fan Caves" are the new rage.

**MATT BURKE**

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

PROVIDED

You don't need to fly to Vegas to legally bet on sports anymore, nor do you have to go out West to get an upscale sports betting experience.

All of these sportsbooks that are opening up in Philly and in Atlantic City are far from dives, and The Books at Harrah's Resort and Bally's Wild Wild West that are set to open in the next month are looking like the most luxurious betting spots yet.

The Book at Harrah's Resort in AC, following a $56 million hotel renovation to its Coastal Tower, is set to open within the next week. Situated next to the Poker Room, The Book at Harrah's will feature 3,800 square feet of space including high-quality resolution LED TVs spanning across the walls. The Book will also feature two "Fan Caves" for a private, upgraded experience.

Five private "Fan Caves" will also open at The Book at Wild Wild West in mid-June. The private rooms, which can hold up to 10 people at a time, include high-res TVs that can be split into three different screens, a foosball table, game consoles including an Xbox, table service and food provided by Guy Fieri's Guy's Bar-B-Que Joint.

"The Books at Harrah's Resort and The Wild Wild West were designed to lead the evolution of gaming in Atlantic City, rivaling the top sportsbooks throughout the country," said Kevin Ortzman, regional president for Caesars Entertainment Atlantic City. "We see the future of the sports betting experience, seamlessly blending gaming, entertainment and social elements to create a truly one-of-a-king experience here on the East Coast, which will attract both new and existing customers to the market."

## Betting on Maximum Security

It's part protest, part fatigue, but disqualified Kentucky Derby winner Maximum Security will not run in this coming Saturday's Preakness Stakes at Pimlico.

Maximum Security is not likely to run in the Belmont Stakes in June, either, but he will take part in the Haskell Invitational Stakes at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, New Jersey, on Saturday, July 20. The purse there is $1 million.

PointsBet released odds on the Haskell last week and Maximum Security has been set at +300 to win the race. The cutting-edge online sportsbook is taking early bets on the Haskell now and is offering up to $1,000 back on your first two bets. To take advantage of this offer, go to **https://tinyurl.com/y433dxvr**.

**TWEET OF THE DAY**

**Darin Zoccali**
@atTheTrack7

**The Preakness may be lacking star power but it is shaping up as one of the best betting editions in recent memory. Potential for a 12-horse field with a lot of different angles. #Preakness**

Best bets

# MLB Monday betting preview

MetroBet highlights a pair of MLB games on the docket for Monday.

**Brewers at Phillies**

Aaron Nola will be on the mound for Philadelphia on Monday, and he's had three solid starts in a row, allowing only one run in each of those efforts (18 1/3 innings). After serving up seven home runs in his first five starts of 2019, Nola has given up just one in his last three outings. Milwaukee's offense is a mediocre 23rd in runs per game on the road this year at 4.24.

The Brewers will likely trot out some combination of Adrian Houser and the struggling Freddy Peralta, as manager Craig Counsell has had to get creative in order to overcome a lousy rotation this year (22nd in the majors by ERA at 4.67, 26th by batting average against at .268).

Houser has been fine when not asked to go a second time through the batting order (no runs allowed in his last three appearances). Peralta pitched five scoreless in relief against the Nationals on Tuesday, but Washington's offense has been scuffling lately due to injury. Peralta's ERA was 8.31 before his most recent effort.

Look for outfielder Odubel Herrera to provide a spark (five hits, four RBI in his last four contests) and send the Citizens Bank Park crowd home happy.

***The play: Phillies -150***

**Orioles at Yankees**

Two subpar starting pitchers will take the hill at Yankee Stadium on Monday as David Hess and the Orioles meet Jonathan Loaisiga and the Yankees. Oddsmakers can't set a high enough total for this one.

Hess surrendered three home runs to New York when he last faced them on April 7. He hasn't fared much better in five subsequent starts against other opponents, allowing seven additional round-trippers. Hess' SO/W ratio on the year is only 2.08. Behind him is Baltimore's AL-worst bullpen (5.96 ERA). The Yankees offense is a decent 13th in runs per game at 4.95.

***The play: Over***

ROBERT CRISCOLA

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The Giants are expected to trade ace lefty Madison Bumgarner this summer. GETTY IMAGES

# Madison Bumgarner puts Phillies on no-trade list

The Giants ace will likely be on the move this summer.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

The days of San Francisco Giants domination are long gone as the 2010, 2012, and 2014 World Series champions are on the verge of breaking up amidst recent struggles.

It's only a matter of time until one of the centerpieces of those teams, ace starting pitcher Madison Bumgarner, is on his way out of the Bay Area.

The 29-year-old southpaw will be a free agent following the 2020 season where he'll be on the verge of a major payday.

Bumgarner was one of Major League Baseball's workhorses before injuries provided a series of setbacks over the past two years.

He recorded at least 200 innings of work in each year from 2011-2016, garnering four All-Star Game selections and four top-10 finishes in the National League Cy Young Award voting. During those six seasons, he went 93-61 with a 3.00 ERA and 1,285 strikeouts.

It was his postseason accolades that made him one of the game's biggest names, however.

In 16 playoff appearances, Bumgarner is 8-3 with a minuscule 2.11 ERA. Those numbers were even better on the biggest stage as he allowed just a single run in a combined 36 innings pitched during the 2010, 2012, and 2014 World Series.

The expected massive contract that is coming Bumgarner's way is not going to be conducive for the Giants' rebuilding efforts.

San Francisco won just 64 games in 2017 before 73 triumphs last season. Things aren't looking much better through the first six weeks of 2019 as they were 16-23 through their first 39 games.

As their season is expected to be over by the latter stages of the summer, Bumgarner's name could be a marquee one around the league's trade deadline at the end of July.

In anticipation of such a possibility, Bumgarner submitted an eight-team, no-trade list to the Giants.

And it isn't good news for the Philadelphia Phillies as they are on that list.

Also on the list is the Atlanta Braves, Boston Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, Houston Astros, Milwaukee Brewers, New York Yankees, and St. Louis Cardinals, per Ken Rosenthal of the Athletic.

The Phillies need help on the front-end of their rotation behind ace Aaron Nola.

While they've received some great outings from Zach Eflin and Jerad Eickhoff in the recent weeks, the book is still out on them. Not to mention the inconsistencies experienced by Jake Arrieta and the recently-injured Vince Velasquez.

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# HARDEN'S LEGACY FURTHER TARNISHED

OPINION

JOE PANTORNO
@JoePantorno

James Harden was unable to guide his Rockets past the Warriors in the playoffs for the fourth time in five seasons. GETTY IMAGES

The Golden State Warriors continue to throw a wrench in our ability to properly label the legacies of some of this generation's greatest NBA stars.

That's usually what happens when an era is defined by a superteam, or a dynasty, or whatever you want to call them.

A team that has featured Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green as its centerpiece for five years now was going to be good enough to be a force in the Western Conference for years.

The addition of Kevin Durant simply made them a juggernaut. Three championships in the past four years, a fifth coming.

Their presence at the upper echelon of the NBA has forced us to play an enormous game of "what if," however. Just like we've had to do during dynasties attained by the Boston Celtics in the '60s or the Chicago Bulls in the '90s.

Parity in basketball is pretty rare, isn't it?

Golden State's dominance has already cast a shadow over Durant's career. There will always be a faction of detractors that claim he had to join a loaded team to win a championship after unsuccessful attempts with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

But now their dominance is starting to raise questions about Houston Rockets superstar James Harden, who once again failed to find a way through the Warriors in the playoffs.

Harden and the Rockets went down in six games to Golden State, a frustrating follow-up to a seven-game thriller in the Western Conference Finals in which the Warriors were clearly on the ropes (though they were apparently bailed out by the absence of Chris Paul for Game 7).

This year, a healthy Houston side was supposed to provide Golden State with its toughest challenge prior to the Finals. Those chances jumped exponentially when Durant exited Game 5 with a calf injury that held him out for the remainder of the second round.

Down one with eight minutes remaining in that game, Harden — who led the NBA with 36.1 points per game this season — took just one shot.

With no Durant for Game 6 in Houston, it was expected that the Rockets would at least push the series to the brink with a win at home.

But Harden's 35 points on 11-of-25 shooting, along with five missed free throws, wasn't enough in a five-point loss as Curry and Thompson lifted the dynastic Warriors to the Western Conference Finals.

It was the fourth playoff loss to the Warriors in the past five years for Harden as the first 10 seasons of his Hall of Fame career has been accentuated by playoff failures to Curry and Co.

Just another player who can't win a title by himself?

That could be an unfair assessment given the sheer power of the Warriors. But those questions are emerging after this postseason and the golden chance that Harden let slip through his fingers.

It would be a shock if Harden went his entire NBA career without winning a title, and his odds are only going to increase starting next year.

The Warriors are on the verge of breaking up as Durant and Thompson could be heading to new teams in free agency this summer. Those moves could blow the Western Conference wide open — and thus get Harden a ring while in a Rockets uniform.

It will provide the seven-time All-Star with a mountaintop moment for his career, but there will always be the notion that he had to wait for the superteam to break up in order to do so.

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# Man City wins second straight Premier League crown

Manchester City holds off second-place Liverpool for another EPL title.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Manchester City lifted the Premier League Trophy for the fourth time in eight years. GETTY IMAGES

For the second consecutive season, Manchester City are the champions of the English Premier League after securing the title with a 4-1 triumph over Brighton & Hove Albion on Sunday afternoon.

The three points lifted City to 98 on the season, just one ahead of second-place Liverpool, who defeated Wolverhampton, 2-0, to close out the season. The Reds needed Manchester City to either draw or lose to have a chance to win their first Premier League title since 1990.

It is the first time in Premier League history that the top two clubs finished a season with 90 or more points.

City's final hurdle on Sunday didn't start on the best note. Brighton, who finished the season in 17th out of 20 teams, scored first through Glenn Murray's header in the 27th minute to give Liverpool a chance to snatch the Premier League Trophy.

But that was as close as the Reds would get as Manchester City turned it on against Brighton as goals from Sergio Aguero, Aymeric Laporte, Riyad Mahrez and Ilkay Gundogan ended the season in style.

Manchester City ended the campaign on a 14-match winning streak to come away as champions with a 32-2-4 record.

Liverpool lost just once in 38 Premier League matches this season, winning their last matches. But a six-match stretch that featured four draws from Jan. 30 to March 3 doomed the Reds.

It's a difficult way to end the week for a Liverpool squad that overcame a 3-0 first-leg deficit against Barcelona in the semifinals of the UEFA Champions League on Tuesday.

The Reds will play in the Champions League Final against fellow English side Tottenham in Madrid on June 1. Tottenham finished fourth in the league following a draw to Everton.

Chelsea's draw to Leicester City secured third place for the London side to round out a top four that automatically qualifies for next year's Champions League.

Fifth-place Arsenal and sixth-place Manchester United have automatically qualified for the UEFA Europa League. However, Arsenal can get an automatic bid to the Champions League should they defeat Chelsea in the Europa League Final on May 29 in Azerbaijan.

For Manchester City, though, their reign as one of the top clubs in England continues as they now have four league titles since 2012.

This was a club that was often regarded as the English city's little brother to Manchester United, having not won a Premier League title since 1967-68.

But the purchase of the club by Sheikh Mansour in 2008 revitalized Manchester City, making them one of the richest soccer teams in the world. With an abundance of funds to purchase the top players in the world, the Citizens have won four Premier League titles, one FA Cup, four League Cups and two Community Shields.

They will try to complete a domestic double on May 18 when they face Watford in the FA Cup Final.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ACTION IN MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
CIVIL ACTION – LAW
NO.: CV-2018-006383

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA S/B/M WACHOVIA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs.
Dawn M. Schneider, as believed Heir and/or Administrator to the Estate of Sharon D. Sykes; Kelley Royer-Marek, as believed Heir and/or Administrator to the Estate of Sharon D. Sykes; Daniel J. Sykes, as believed Heir and/or Administrator to the Estate of Sharon D. Sykes; Unknown Heirs and/or Administrators of the Estate of Sharon D. Sykes, Defendants

TO: Unknown Heirs and/or Administrators of the Estate of Sharon D. Sykes

You are hereby notified that Plaintiff, Wells Fargo Bank, NA S/B/M Wachovia Bank, National Association, filed an Action in Mortgage Foreclosure endorsed with a Notice to Defend, in the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, docketed to No. CV-2018-006383, seeking to foreclose the mortgage secured by the real estate located at 546 South Old Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063.

A copy of the Action in Mortgage Foreclosure will be sent to you upon request to the Attorney for the Plaintiff, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, P. O. Box 165028, Columbus, OH 43216-5028. Phone 614-220-5611.

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims in this notice, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this publication, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

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335 West Front Street, Media, PA 19063
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NOTICE OF ACTION IN MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
CIVIL ACTION – LAW
NO.: 2019-04493

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
vs.
Unknown Heirs and/or Administrators of the Estate of Vincent A. Sorichillo, Defendant

TO: Unknown Heirs and/or Administrators of the Estate of Vincent A. Sorichillo

You are hereby notified that Plaintiff, PNC Bank, National Association, filed an Action in Mortgage Foreclosure endorsed with a Notice to Defend, in the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, docketed to No. 2019-04493, seeking to foreclose the mortgage secured by the real estate located at 4705 Gravel Pike, Perkiomenville, PA 18074.

A copy of the Action in Mortgage Foreclosure will be sent to you upon request to the Attorney for the Plaintiff, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, P. O. Box 165028, Columbus, OH 43216-5028. Phone 614-220-5611.

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims in this notice, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this publication, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS NOTICE TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

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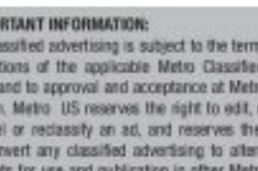

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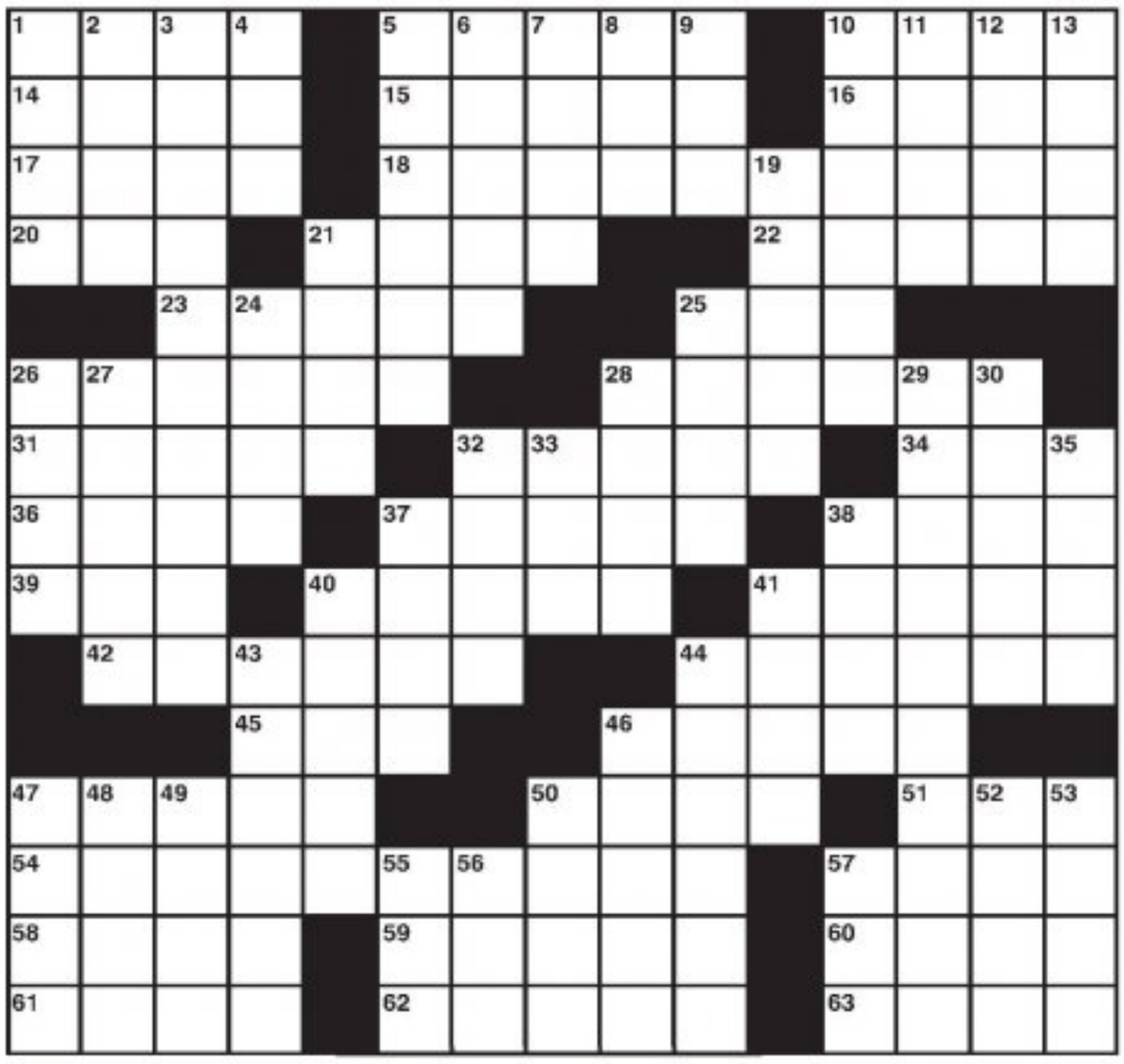

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### ACROSS

1 Injection
5 Too heavy
10 Walk with heavy steps
14 Prying
15 Fit for a king
16 Of sound mind
17 Basics
18 Failure to do one's duty
20 Luau dish
21 Wagers
22 Not as polite
23 Dishonest folks
25 Family member
26 Meager; measly
28 Pious
31 Taken __; surprised
32 "__ Blue Gown"
34 Parking area
36 Walkway
37 Smooth & shiny
38 __-crossed; ill-fated
39 Feasted
40 Fast
41 Stable animal
42 Schoolchild's compositions
44 Twirl around an axis
45 Fleur-de-__
46 Subdues
47 Starbucks edible
50 Switzerland's capital
51 Put __; delay
54 Horseback rider
57 Largest tribe in South Africa
58 Garbage truck's destination
59 Sicker than before
60 Dollar bills
61 Talk back
62 Stranger
63 Some of Keats' poems

### DOWN

1 In a __; instantly
2 Vagabond
3 Moves like a fan
4 Cobb & Burrell
5 Crabby
6 Borscht ingredients
7 Breakfast order
8 Actor Mineo
9 Inventor Whitney
10 Artificial; mock
11 "...o'er the __ of the free..."
12 A single time
13 Forest animal
19 Serious
21 Tree coating
24 Mosquito bite reaction
25 52 cards
26 Dad
27 Diminish; lessen
28 Perished
29 Diagnostic test
30 Browned bread
32 European range
33 Flowery neckwear
35 Birch or beech
37 "__ who?"; skeptic's question
38 As __ as a boil
40 Thin metal bars
41 Choir selection
43 Slumbers
44 Actor James
46 Josh with
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48 Greenish-blue
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52 Escape
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